



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

March 8, 2004

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, 1st Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby returning without my approval S. 481, R-199, an Act:

TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 1 OF CLARENDON COUNTY TO EXPEND FUNDS IN ITS SCHOOL BUILDING FUND TO MEET ITS COSTS OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AND TO REPLACE FUNDS LOST AS A CONSEQUENCE OF REDUCTIONS IN STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.

This bill was introduced to address the budget shortfall of Clarendon School District One in fiscal year 2002-2003. I am vetoing this bill because fiscal year 2002-2003 has ended and this legislation is no longer relevant.

I also have concerns with the policy of this bill, specifically that it would allow the district to expend money from bonded indebtedness to fund operating expenses. In a transmittal letter accompanying H. 3945, R-105 last year, I indicated very clearly that I would veto any legislation that continued this practice. As I stated then, I believe funding short-term operating needs with long-term bonded indebtedness is not the fiscally-responsible way to address budget shortfalls, and will actually add further stress on the school district's financial condition.

For these reasons, I am returning S. 481, R-199 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford
Governor

cc: The Honorable John C. Land, III